

DATE: April 20th, 2018

FROM: Eric Rogers, Executive Director 

TO: James Wang, KC Parks

CC: Eva Steinman and Mike Landvick, MoDOT; Jay Burress, SKW; Eric Bunch, BikeWalkKC and KCMO

BPAC; Mark McHenry, KC Parks

RE: Paseo Gateway Intersection Project

This letter is to provide BikeWalkKC's feedback on the design proposed for the Paseo Gateway project that is scheduled to be presented at a public meeting next week. While there are some important and much-needed improvements, we have some serious concerns with this design that may prevent BikeWalkKC from supporting its construction.

Good improvements

- Removes the double intersection
- Reconfigures ramps and intersections north of Independence to improve connectivity and safety
- Incorporates and connects a separated path that links to Cliff Drive and Pendleton Heights

Unresolved questions about this design

- While the overall intersection area is smaller, the actual exposed pedestrian crossing distances are much longer
- Curb radii are much larger than current design, increasing crossing distance and encouraging vehicle speed. This is the case even though trucks are not allowed on boulevards and do not need to be accommodated at this intersection
- Medians do not extend to provide pedestrian refuge on the north side (and are still quite exposed on the south side)
- Does not coordinate with Independence Avenue Pedestrian Safety Study recommendations
- It is unclear how this is coordinated with other funded Paseo bikeway improvements
- It is unclear how this is coordinated with Choice Neighborhood Investments

Where pedestrians cross Independence and Paseo, the proposed design appears to make conditions less comfortable, more exposed to automobiles, and potentially less safe than the current configuration.

Finally, BikeWalkKC has partnerships with many neighborhood associations, nonprofits, and social service agencies in this area. We do not think these important stakeholders have been sufficiently engaged in the design process.

I communicated these to KC Parks, MoDOT, and SKW via email on February 8th. Eric Bunch, in his capacity as the City's Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee Chair, expressed similar concerns on behalf of BPAC on the same day, and asked for an in-person meeting to discuss our concerns. We received no response and no meeting has taken place. Furthermore, it is my understanding that this design is being presented to the public without the approval of the BPAC.

I hope that we can meet at your earliest convenience to discuss this further and ultimately find a revised design that better accommodates pedestrian comfort and safety.